

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

Chairman Jim Nussle
U.S. House Budget Committee
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member John Spratt
U.S. House Budget Committee
B-71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed cut of the AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC) in the President's FY 07 Budget. As you are aware, there are five campuses in the United States that serves as both a wonderful place for young people to get involved with their community, and necessary aid for hundreds of communities across the country. It is with that in mind that we respectfully request that the Budget Committee include \$25.5 million, the same as requested in FY 06, to continue funding this program.


Since 1994, the AmeriCorps*NCCC team members have played an important role by developing leaders and strengthening communities through team-based national and community service in the areas of disaster relief, education, unmet human needs, environment, and public safety. They can be found working in our schools, our non-profit organizations and on community projects throughout our nation.

AmeriCorps*NCCC members are 100% disaster trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States. Trained in CPR, first aid, disaster response, and firefighting, NCCC teams have responded to every national disaster since the program was established. Since September 2005, all NCCC members, over 1,400, have been deployed to the Gulf Coast Region to support hurricane relief and recovery. They have provided more than 250,000 service hours, valued at \$3.8 million, on more than 50 different projects. Project sponsors have included FEMA, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the city of Waveland, MS, St. Bernard's Parish, LA, and others. Finally, NCCC has continued to support long term recovery efforts in the region and currently has 300 NCCC members deployed on 24 projects throughout the Gulf Coast and approximately 900 members will be deployed to the Gulf Coast Region in early March to coordinate the work of spring break volunteers.

The President's proposed budget eliminates the program by providing only \$5 million to close the five regional campuses, which include campuses in: Sacramento, CA; Denver, CO; Charleston, SC; Washington, DC; and Perry Point, MD. The campuses support over 100 programs throughout the country. If these cuts are allowed to go through they will have a profound affect on our schools and communities.

Eliminating the Americorps*NCCC sends precisely the wrong message to those who want to build a better tomorrow for those in need. We urge you to fund this vital program in this year's budget. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

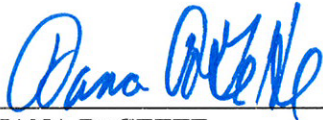
Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



WAYNE GILCHREST
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



JAMES LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



ED CASE
Member of Congress



DIANE WATSON
Member of Congress



WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress


PATRICK KENNEDY
Member of Congress


STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress



JAMES MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

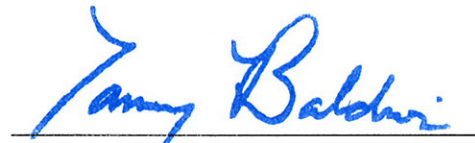

JIM DAVIS
Member of Congress


SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress


JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress

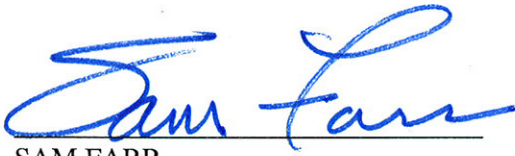

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress


ROB SIMMONS
Member of Congress


BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress


ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress


ANTHONY WEINER
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



RAÚL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



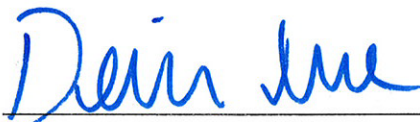
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



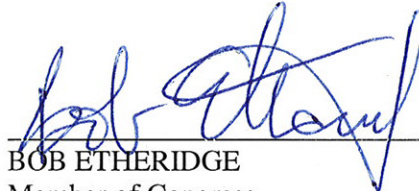
MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress



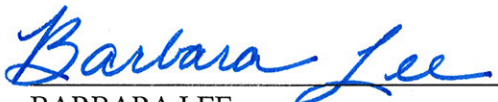
WILLIAM DELAHUNT
Member of Congress



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress



BOB ETHERIDGE
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress




ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress


JAMES MORAN
Member of Congress

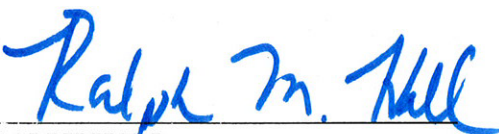

CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress


GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

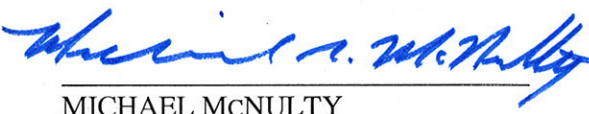

SHERROD BROWN
Member of Congress

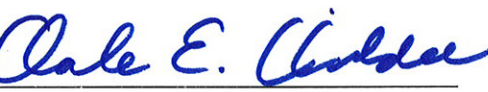

JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress


RALPH HALL
Member of Congress


DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress


HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress


MICHAEL McNULTY
Member of Congress


DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress


MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress